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STAR-COLBY (2 TAKES)†

WASHINGTON, DEC 31, REUTER -- FORMER CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CIA) DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY HAS AGREED TO PAY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT 10,000 DOLLARS TO AVOID BEING SUED FOR A BREACH OF A SECRECY AGREEMENT, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

EARLIER THIS YEAR DEPARTMENT SOURCES SAID THEY WOULD SUE MR COLBY FOR PUBLISHING A FRENCH EDITION OF HIS MEMOIRS WITHOUT PRIOR CIA APPROVAL.

AS PART OF THE SETTLEMENT, MR COLBY SIGNED A STATEMENT AGREEING TO ABIDE BY AN AGREEMENT TO LET THE CIA REVIEW FUTURE MANUSCRIPTS BEFORE PUBLICATION.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THAT ALL CIA EMPLOYEES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES ARE BOUND BY SUCH AN AGREEMENT, AND SAYS VIOLATION OF IT IS A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

IN RECENT YEARS THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUED SEVERAL FORMER CIA AGENTS WHO HAVE PUBLISHED BOOKS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES WITHOUT GAINING AGENCY APPROVAL.

NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE REPORTED EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT THE GALLEY PROOFS OF MR COLBY'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY, "HONORABLE MEN: MY LIFE IN THE CIA," REACHED A FRENCH PUBLISHER BEFORE THE AGENCY WAS ABLE TO INSIST ON DELETING A PASSAGE DEALING WITH AN UNSUCCESSFUL CIA EFFORT TO RECOVER A SUNKEN SOVIET SUBMARINE.†

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FRANK-COLBY 2 WASHINGTON

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RELEASED A PHOTOCOPY OF THE SETTLEMENT SIGNED BY MR COLBY; SAYING AGREEMENT ON IT WAS REACHED LAST MONDAY.

THE DOCUMENT STATES THAT THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE THE COUNTRY'S TOP KEEPER OF SECRETS HAS FORMALLY AGREED "NOT TO DISCUSS WITH OR DISCLOSE TO ANY PERSON NOT AUTHORIZED TO HEAR IT; CLASSIFIED INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY."

ACCORDING TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT; MR COLBY SUBMITTED A COPY OF THE BOOK MANUSCRIPT SIMULTANEOUSLY TO THE CIA AND TO HIS U.S. PUBLISHER; SIMON AND SCHUSTER.

IT SAYS THAT PUBLISHER "FURTHER DISSEMINATED THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT TO A FRENCH PUBLISHER (AND) THE OBLIGATION UNDER THE SECRECY AGREEMENTS WAS BREACHED."

A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID SHE HAD NOT RECEIVED CLEARANCE TO RELEASE THE NAME OF THE FRENCH PUBLISHER.

LAST YEAR THE SUPREME COURT IN A LANDMARK DECISION UPHELD A GOVERNMENT SUIT CLAIMING THAT FORMER CIA AGENT FRANK SNEPP HAD VIOLATED HIS POSITION OF TRUST BY A PUBLISHING WITHOUT CIA APPROVAL A BOOK ABOUT THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM VIETNAM.

MR SNEPP WAS ORDERED TO GIVE THE GOVERNMENT 140,000 DOLLARS IN PROFITS FROM THE BOOK; "DECENT INTERVAL." 2
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